**Performance parameters of IA**

2375. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the performance parameters of Indian Airlines in terms of seat load factor, market share in percentage, the total number of passengers in the month of October, 2001 as compared to August, 2001; and

(b) how it stands as compared to Air Sahara and Jet Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Domestic passengers carried, percentage share and seat factor of the scheduled airlines is as follows:—

| Domestic Passengers Carried by Scheduled Airlines, percentage share & seat factor of each carrier | Indian Airlines | Jet Airways | Sahara Airlines | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **August, 2001** | | | | |
| Passengers carried | 463866 | 490740 | 36329 | 990935 |
| Share (%) | 46.8 | 49.5 | 3.7 | 100.0 |
| Seat Factor (%) | 55.9 | 62.1 | 33.22 | — |
| **October, 2001** | | | | |
| Passengers carried | 441542 | 396109 | 48110 | 885761 |
| Share (%) | 49.8 | 44.7 | 5.5 | 100.0 |
| Seat Factor (%) | 54.6 | 53.0 | 39.11 | — |

**New airport at Ajmer, Rajasthan**

2376. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan Government has demanded that an airport be constructed at Ajmer, a pilgrim centre in Rajasthan;

(b) whether a demand has also been made to provide flights for all parts of the country from there; and

(c) if so, what is Government's response to these demands?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) A request has been received from the State Government of Rajasthan for construction of an airport at Ajmer. The Airports Authority of India has identified a possible site for construction of a new airport at Ajmer. The proposal is at a preliminary stage at present.

**New airport in Uttarkashi**

2377. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to construct a new airport in or around Uttarkashi;

(b) whether any helipad airport is functioning in Uttarkashi;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when Government are going to construct a new airport in Uttarkashi?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) There is a small airstrip belonging to the State Government at Chinyali Saur in Uttarkashi Block. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has no plans at present to construct a new airport in or around Uttarkashi.

**Upgradation of fleet operation**

2378. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any commendable steps to upgrade fleet operation of national airlines in comparison with foreign airlines during the last three years in keeping with the competition:

(b) if so, the details thereof: and